

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9105

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSR TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 3534

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7396

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR

SUBJECT: SADAT ON EGYPTIAN/SOVIET RELATIONS: RENEWAL OF NAVAL
FACILITIES

REF CAIRO 7341; MOSCOW 14216

1. SEPT 23 ISSUE OF ROSE AL-YOUSSEF CARRIES SADAT INTERVIEW
DEALING, INTER ALIA, WITH SOVIET/EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. ACCORDING

TO SADAT, EGYPT IS GRATEFUL FOR SOVIET ASSISTANCE, BUT PRIMARY
PROBLEM IS AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT OF ARMS. DURING OCTOBER WAR
US COMPENSATED ISRAELI ARMY WITH WEAPONSTHAT HAD BEEN LOST,

INCLUDING NEW ARMS NOT PREVIOUSLY IN ISRAELI INVENTORY, WHILE
SOVIET AIRLIFT TO EGYPT MERELY MADE GOOD ON EARLIER AGREEMENTS
WHICH HAD BEEN DELAYED. SADAT SAID THAT THE MOMENT FIGHTING
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STOPPED, SOVIET SHIPMENTS CEASED, WHILE US ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL

CONTINUED. "SOVIETS" SAID SADAT, "FROZE THEIR ASSISTANCE, EVEN ON NON-MILITARY MATTERS, IMAGINE, THEY ASKED ME FOR EIGHTY MILLION DOLLARS IN DEBT INTEREST WHILE DURING THE SAME WEEK THE US CONGRESS APPROPRIATED 2200 MILLION DOLLARS FOR ISRAEL." IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, SADAT STATED THAT EGYPT'S NEEDS HAD NOT CHANGED A WHIT; HER DESIRE FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE USRR IS THE SAME. "AN INDICATION OF THIS IS THE

RENEWAL OF OUR FACILITIES FOR THE SOVIET FLEET." SADAT CONCLUDED THAT PROBLEM WAS SOVIET POSITION, NOT EGYPT'S; THAT SOVIETS MUST UNDERSTAND "ESSENCE" OF SOVIET/EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP; AND THAT HE BELIEVED THAT RELATIONSHIP WOULD IMPROVE.

2. COMMENT: LIKE OTHER EGYPTIAN PRESS REPORTS (CAIRO REFTEL)

SADAT'S REMARKS MAY BE REASON PART OF EGYPTIAN POSITIONING

PRIOR TO FAHMY'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW, AND IT IS OF INTEREST

THAT SOVIETS THEMSELVES ARE BEGINNING TO PREPARE FOR EVENT BY PUBLICLY COUNTERING ANTICIPATED EGYPTIAN APPROACH (MO COW

REFTEL). AT THIS POINT WE DO NOT SEE MUCH FLEXIBILITY IN EGYPT'S POSITION. IN FACT, AVAILABLE INDICATIONS SUGGEST THAT ULTIMATUM PSYCHOLOGY MAY BE DEVELOPING IN GOE WHICH WILL SEE FAHMY DEPART FOR MOSCOW WITH LITTLE ROOM OR DESIRE TO COMPROMISE UNLESS SOVIETS COME THROUGH WITH WEAPONRY OR ECONOMIC RELIEF.

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